GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1794
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
PRICES OF PULSES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that prices of pulses during the last few months have gone up alarmingly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is fall in production of pulses;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the production of pulses and to check price; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): The prices of pulses, as measured by Wholesale Price Index(WPI) have been fluctuating during the last one year as shown in the Annexure. The position in recent months is that the WPI increased from 172.4 in April, 2005 to 189.2 in August,2005. It declined to 188.8 in September,2005 and again increased to 191.1 in October, 2005. The price rise is due to decline in production and heavy buying pressure from millers.

(c) & (d): The production of pulses declined from 14.94 million tonnes in 2003-04 to 13.38 (Provisional) million tonnes in 2004-05. The production of pulses during rabi season of 2004-05 were damaged at the time of harvesting due to unfavourable weather. However the first advance estimate of production of pulses for kharif 2005-06 has shown some marginal increase over the kharif of 2004-05.

(e) & (f): With the objective to increase the production, productivity and achieve self sufficiency, pulses were brought into the ambit of the Technology Mission in 1990. An integrated approach has been adopted under the Mission right from research and development in production technology to crop production, post harvest and processing, price support and marketing . The technology Mission on Oilseeds implemented the National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), which was implemented till 2003-04. Currently the Government of India are implementing a Centrally Sponsored `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country. The prices were kept under check through import of pulses. During 2003-04 and 2004-05, the import was 1.7 million tonnes and 1.30 million tonnes respectively.

Annexure

Index numbers of Wholesale Prices for Pulses during October 2004 to October 2005 −

Wholesale Prices Index for Pulses (Base: 1993-94=100)

Months	WP Index	% Change over preceding Months
October-04	179.9	-
November-04	177.9	-1.11
December -04	176.5	-0.79
January-05	173.9	-1.47
February-05	170.6	-1.90
March-05	168.8	-1.06
April-05	172.4	2.13
May-05	177.0	2.67
June-05	180.4	1.92
July-05	187.5	3.94
August-05	189.2	0.91
September-05	188.8	-0.21
October-05	191.1	1.22

Note: The Wholesale Prices Indices for the Month of September & October, 2005 are Provisional

Source: Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi